



Claverack Historical Society
Minutes
August 13, 2025

A meeting of Claverack Historical Society was called to order by President Nick Zasorin at 5:30 PM.

Those present were Nick Zasorin, Gary Davis, Jeane LaPorta, Bob LaPorta, Paula Ptaszek, Thea Schoep, Kara Keeler, Sal Casalino, and Richard Bazelow.

Minutes from the last meeting dated July 16, 2025, were accepted as written with a motion presented by Bob and seconded by Paula.

A motion to accept Thea as an honorary member was presented by Nick, seconded by Rich and approved.

Discussion regarding the 501(c) 3 application took place. Gary and Nick agreed to meet before the next meeting to complete this process.

The status of the Claverack History Day was the next order of business. It was agreed that we would have this event at the Claverack Library and The Reformed Dutch Church Claverack, September 27, 2025, from 11:00AM to 3:00PM. The events at the library would include a reading, presented to children, by the author in costume as Mum Bet. The author will read excerpts from the book at 11:00 AM.

The Columbia County Sheriff's department will be available with a vehicle and possibly K-9 police dog to talk about their work in the county. This event will take place from 1:00PM to 3:00 PM.

Representatives from the Van Hoesen-Marriott house will be present to talk about their work on this historic house project and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad. They will have a video loop and display table with representatives set up in the lower conference room of the library. This event will be continuous from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

Events at the Reformed Dutch Church will include 2 tours of the sanctuary starting at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. A cemetery tour from 12:00PM to 1:00PM. And an organ recital from 2:00PM to 3:00 PM.

Jeane and Thea volunteered to contact prospective organists for the recital. Jeane and Kara will work on the public relations component both in the media and online. Paula will contact a food truck which will be available from 11:00AM to 3:00PM.

Paula reported on the Historical Society banner with information and pricing from Staples. They can complete the project for \$275.00 Paula will get another quote from Chatham Printing and compare.

Columbia County events surrounding the 250th anniversary were discussed. Jeane reported that the Knox Trail reenactment would take place in the county from January 4th to January 10th. Columbia County will receive the reenactment cannon on the 4th and hand it off to Berkshire County Mass on the 10th. Events surrounding this event are being planned.

Nick reported that a commemorative 250th beer and spirits are being considered by distilleries in the area. More to come on this topic. Thea reported that the library is instituting a 20-minute book club reminiscent of the book clubs of the late 19th century. Members would read for 20 minutes a day and meet to discuss their readings.

A follow up zoom meeting will be held Wednesday August 20, 2025, at 5:30PM.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM.

J. LaPorta, Secretary